IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A method for obtaining hardware resources in a system resource, said method comprising the steps of:

obtaining additional one of the hardware resources from available in a system, which resources which have not been obtained in the system, for a resource usage of a hardware resource obtaining request, when each use rate of the obtained hardware resources exceeds a predetermined threshold in that the obtained hardware resources, which have been obtained and which resource usage of each of the obtained hardware resources is usages are identical with a resource usage that of the hardware resource obtaining request, exceeds a predetermined threshold;

whereby one of hardware resources in the system is obtained based on the resource usage indicated by the hardware resource obtaining request every time the hardware resource obtaining request occurs.

Claim 2 (currently amended) An apparatus for obtaining hardware resources in a system resource, said apparatus comprising:

a comparing part comparing a predetermined threshold with each a use rate for each of a plurality of obtained hardware resources, which have been obtained and which resource usages are identical with a resource usage that of a hardware resource obtaining request; and

an obtaining part obtaining additional one of the hardware resources, which from available resources which have not been obtained in the system, for the resource usage of the

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hardware resource obtaining request, when each use rate of the <u>obtained</u> hardware resources being obtained exceeds the predetermined threshold;

~~whereby one of hardware resources in the system is obtained based on the resource usage indicated by the hardware resource obtaining request every time the hardware resource obtaining request occurs.~~

Claim 3 (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, further comprising:

a securing part securing some of the <u>available</u> hardware resources so as to obtain at least one of the <u>available</u> hardware resources for each of a plurality of resource usages.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, further comprising:

an obtaining-to-use part obtaining a part of an unused area of the <u>obtained</u> hardware resources ~~that have been obtained~~ in a condition in which each resource usage of the <u>obtained</u> hardware resources is identical with ~~that~~ <u>the resource usage</u> of said hardware resource obtaining request and each use rate of the <u>obtained</u> hardware resources exceeds the predetermined threshold.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, further comprising:

a threshold setting part dynamically setting a threshold of said each resource usage based on the use rate of said each resource usage of the <u>obtained</u> hardware resources in the system

Claim 6 (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, further comprising:

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a given threshold setting part setting a given threshold to the threshold of said each resource usage of the <u>obtained</u> hardware resources in the system.

Claim 7 (currently amended) An apparatus for obtaining hardware <u>resources</u> ~~resource~~, said apparatus comprising:

a first selecting-to-use part selecting one <u>obtained</u> hardware resource having a least use rate in <u>obtained</u> hardware resources ~~that have been obtained~~ in a condition in which each resource usage of the <u>obtained</u> hardware resources is identical with <u>a</u> ~~the~~ resource usage of a hardware resource obtaining request; and

a using part using a part of an unused area of said one <u>obtained</u> hardware resource selected by said first selecting-to-use part,

~~whereby one of hardware resources in the system is obtained based on the resource usage indicated by the hardware resource obtaining request every time the hardware resource obtaining request occurs~~.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

a threshold setting part dynamically setting a threshold of said each resource usage based on the use rate of said each resource usage of the <u>obtained</u> hardware resources in the system..

Claim 9 (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:

a priority setting part setting a priority of each resource usage based on the use rate of said each resource usage of ~~each of~~ the <u>obtained</u> hardware resources in the system.

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Claim 10 (currently amended) An apparatus for obtaining hardware <u>resources</u> ~~resource~~, said apparatus comprising:

a second selecting-to-use part selecting one <u>obtained</u> hardware resource which has <u>a</u> ~~the~~ use rate being less than <u>an</u> [[]]a upper limit and has a largest resource, ~~in~~ <u>from obtained</u> hardware resources that have been obtained in a condition in which each resource usage of the <u>obtained</u> hardware resources is identical with <u>a</u> ~~the~~ resource usage of a hardware resource obtaining request; and

a using part using a part of an unused area of said one <u>obtained</u> hardware resource selected by said second selecting-to-use part;

~~whereby one of hardware resources in the system is obtained based on the resource usage indicated by the hardware resource obtaining request every time the hardware resource obtaining request occurs.~~

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